THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dumping of coal by Transport Contractor

1170. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the regular dumping of coal on the roadside near Alakdiha village of Dhanbad by the transport contractor while carrying coal from Kuya Colliery to the authorised coal dump in BCCL ;

(b) if so, the details thereof giving the names of the transport contractor and the other parties involved in the theft ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the youths of Alakdiha village intervened in the process and seized some 20 tons of coal and handed it over to the management on 8th March, 1992 ;

(d) whether local management, administration, transport contractor and the mafias of the area are jointly involved in this racket ; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creating a Female protection force in CCL and BCCL.

1171. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to raise a female protection force in Central Coalfields Limited and BCCL to prevent theft of coal and to give gainful employment to the females on roll ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) and (b) A female security wing raised from the surplus able-bodied female workers has been constituted in Central Coalfields Limited for deployment in coal depots to prevent theft of coal as well as for gainful utilisation of surplus female work force. No such proposal has been contemplated in Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

1172. [*Transferred to the 13th May*, 1992]

Private Sector Participation in Lignite mining

1173. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the participation of private sector in lignite mining and coal mining ;

(b) whether the mining in these sectors is exclusively reserved for public sector ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the related act and to assign the mining task to private sector ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) Coal/Lignite mining is at present reserved for public sector with the exceptions of captive mining and consumption by Iron & Steel Industry and mining in small isolated pockets, not amenable to economical development and not requiring rail transport. However, a proposal for allowing captive coal mines to selected consumer (e.g. Power) units of private sector for captive consumption is under consideration of the Government.

Demonstration by Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation

1174. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal miners belonging to Hind Khadan Mazdoor

Federation held demonstrations in March, 1992 as reported in the Times of India dated 31st March, 1992 ;

(b) if so, the details of their demands ;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

CBI enquiry in the activities of the Chief Personnel Manager ECL

1175. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI conducted a raid in the 3rd week of December, 1991 under the command of Shri C. R. Majumdar, D.S.P., CBI (Calcutta) and another Officer at the residence of the C.P.M. E.C.L. ;

(b) whether a big haul of valuables was unearthed ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether Government have taken any action against the Chief Personnel Manager, ECL ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (d) No CBI raid was conducted in the third week of December, 1991 at the residence of the Chief Personnel Manager of Eastern Coalfields Limited. However CBI had conducted a raid at the residence of the Dy. Chief Personnel Manager/Chief of Administration, ECL on 10-12-1991 in connection with a case involving two employees of ECL who were staying in the company quarter occupied by the officer.

Closure of Coal Mines

1176. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of coal mines in the country have been closed ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the number of such mines (company-wise) and the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) and (b) The closed coal mines include (i) the mines which were taken over as closed at the time of nationalisation and have continued to remain closed (ii) the mines which were taken over as closed at the time of nationalisation, were opened thereafter but have since been closed (iii) the mines which were taken over as working mines but have since been closed and (iv) the new mines which were opened after nationalisation but were closed subsequently.

The reasons for these mines being closed or inactive are as follows :—

1. Those could not be merged/regrouped or amalgamated to form a reconstituted mine.
2. Lack of infrastructural facilities on account of geographical location.
3. Isolated patch deposit with very small reserves and seasonal workability.
4. Insufficient geological data available for such mines.
5. Non-availability of reliable working plans in respect of old Workings.
6. Not viable techno-economically.
7. Exhaustion of extractable reserves.
8. Highly uneconomic working without any potential for future viability.
9. Adverse geo-mining conditions.
10. Safety considerations.

The details of company-wise closed mines are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Occupational Accidents in ECL

1177. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that number